**Replies to letters received from M. Ps.**

391. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the letters written by the M.Ps to the Minister of State for Defence are neither being acknowledged nor replied inspite of repeated reminders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and what steps does the Prime Minister propose to take to ensure that the replies to the letters of the M. Ps. are not only replied promptly but spiritedly by the Minister of State;

(c) whether letters written to the Prime Minister and the Minister of State for Defence, if at all replied, are replied by the officials and not by the Minister; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and what concrete steps does the Prime Minister propose to take to ensure that the replies are sent under the signatures of the Minister of State only and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) As per the laid down procedure, letters addressed by Members of Parliament are replied to as soon as possible. If the information sought is not readily available, such letters are acknowledged pending a complete reply, because occasionally the collection of information from lower formations causes a slight delay.

(c) and (d) Although the Ministers addressed normally endeavour to reply personally to such letters, the laid down procedure permits a reply being sent from official levels. While hitherto the level prescribed was at least that of a Joint Secretary, henceforth the level of such reply would be that of Secretary.

**Setting up of National Security Council**

392. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL:

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any further steps for setting up of the National Security Council as assured during the Budget Session in the Rajya Sabha; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The question of restructuring the National Security Council is under consideration of the Government.

**Diversification in defence production**

393. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of the Defence Public Sector Undertakings Sales during 1993-94 were made to non-defence customers;

(b) whether it is a fact that the motivation for diversification in defence production units had not emerged from any down sizing of defence production;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the performance of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in the last three years in production of defence equipment to meet all requirements of the army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) During the year 1993-94 about fifty percent of the total sales of defence public sector undertakings were to non-defence customers.

(b) and (c) The defence production units undertake diversification so as to raise turnover and productivity by utilising the spareable capacities and skills

after meeting the requirements of defence forces. The value of production for defence by the defence POUs has also been steadily increasing.

(d) DRDO is primarily engaged in design and development of equipment for the armed forces. A wide range of such items has been productionised by the defence production units.

**Use of IAF aircraft by Minister of State**

394. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the print media of 4th July, 1994 about the misuse of IAF's aircraft by the Minister of State for Defence to Jammu;

(b) if so, how many persons travelled in that aircraft and what are the details thereof;

(c) what was the purpose for the Minister to travel to Jammu on that day; and

(d) the steps taken to check the misuse of IAF's aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Government have seen the news item.

(b) Raksha Rajya Mantri was accompanied by three Government servants of other Ministries who were on duty and four non-officials. Full payment of fare in respect of the non-officials has already been received, at the prescribed rates.

(c) RKM had undertaken the visit for urgent and important discussions with the GOC-in-C, Northern Command, GOC 16 Corps and other senior Army personnel regarding Army assistance to civil authorities in Doda.

(d) As per Ministry of Defence O.M. No. F. 7(6)/80/D (Air. II) dated 6-1-81, in case of non-entitled personnel travelling with the RRM, recoveries will be made at the rate of normal commercial air-fare, if the two Stations are connected by regular commercial air service and, in other cases, on the basis of rates per passenger per kilometre worked out by the Directorate of Accounts, Air HQrs, by taking into account the prescribed recovery rates. Payment at the prescribed rates under the Rules has been fully received. There has been no misuse of the aircraft.

**Outlets for products from Ordinance factories**

395. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the products of the Ordnance factories are proposed to be made available in the markets and if so, the names of the products;

(b) what was the export value of Ordnance factories in 1992, 1993 and 1994 and the names of countries importing Indian Ordnance items; and

(c) what is the value of ordnance goods sold for civilian use in 1992, 1993 and so far in 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) With a view to utilising production capacities in ordinance factories (after fully meeting the requirements of the defence forces) and thereby raising their productivity and lowering costs, the Governments has been promoting their diversification to customers other than the defence forces. The products so sold include arms and ammunition, items etc. for para military and police forces and a wide range of castings, forgings, chemicals, commercial explosives etc. for other civilian customers.